

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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EA-12 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15
OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 FTC-01 HEW-06 /122 W
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R 171800Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4379

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USOECD

PASS FTC FOR FISCHBACH; HEW, OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
FOR CAVAGNARO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, OECD
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER POLICY MEETING, JAN.
11-12, 1978

1. SUMMARY
THE OECD CONSUMER POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ITS 16TH MEETING
JANUARY 11 AND 12, 1978 AT OECD HEADQUARTERS, PARIS.

U.S. DELEGATION HEADED BY CHARLES R. CAVAGNARO, OFFICE
OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, DHEW, INCLUDED THEODORE GARRISH,
GENERAL COUNSEL, CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION; AND
JOHN FISCHBACH, ASSISTANT TO THE GENERAL COUNSEL FOR
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, FTC. BUSINESS MEETING INCLUDED
ELECTIONS, REVIEW OF ONGOING WORK IN PRODUCT SAFETY AND
UNDESIRABLE MARKETING PRACTICES, AND CONSIDERATION OF
FUTURE WORK. END SUMMARY.

2. NORWEGIAN REPRESENTATIVE WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN FOR
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FORTHCOMING YEAR; VICE-CHAIRMAN POSTS WENT TO GERMANY,
BELGIUM AND THE UNITED STATES. DISCUSSIONS RESULTED
IN APPROVAL TO CONTINUE WORKING PARTY 3 ON PRODUCT SAFE-
TY AND WORKING PARTY 5 ON UNDESIRABLE MARKETING PRAC-
TICES. WP3, WHICH RECENTLY COMPLETED A REPORT ON
DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS, RECEIVED APPROVAL TO INVES-
TIGATE HOW SUCH SYSTEMS ARE UTILIZED TO DETERMINE SAFE-

TY PROGRAM PRIORITIES. IT WILL ALSO BEGIN A STUDY OF CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY POLICY DEVELOPMENT. U.S. DEL GARRISH MADE BRIEF ORAL REPORT ON RECENT CPSC BAN OF TRIS AS FABRIC FLAME RETARDANT. WP5, WHICH IS NEARING COMPLETION OF A REPORT ON MAIL ORDER SALES, WILL CONTINUE WITH DEVELOPMENT OF A GLOSSARY OF TERMS, AND WILL BEGIN WORK ON BARGAIN OFFER CLAIMS. NOTE: WP5 HELD MEETING JANUARY 9-10 PRIOR CCP; SEE PARIS 953.

3. ADDITIONALLY, CCP AGREED TO: (A) A PROPOSAL BY GERMAN DELEGATE TO FURTHER STUDY INFORMATIVE LABELING SCHEMES BY AD HOC GROUP HEADED BY GERMAN DELEGATE. US, BELGIUM, AUSTRIA SUCCESSFULLY SUPPORTED ESTABLISHING SEPARATE AD HOC GROUP UNDER GERMAN DELEGATE; NORWAY AND SWEDEN HAD SOUGHT TO PLACE ISSUE IN WP5 UNDER SWEDISH CHAIRMAN. (B) LIMIT SECRETARIAT'S OVERLY AMBITIOUS PROJECT PROPOSAL ON PROTECTION OF THE TOURIST AS A CONSUMER (CCP/88.73 AND TOU 77/463). SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL SUGGESTED A TWO PHASE DETAILED SURVEY EXTENDING INTO NOVEMBER 1979 ON ALMOST EVERY ASPECT OF TOURISM. CCP MEMBERS WERE ALMOST UNANIMOUS IN SEVERELY LIMITING SCOPE OF ANY STUDY, FAVORING THE REVIEW OF PACKAGE TOURS. FURTHER ACTION WAS DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT MEETING IN JULY PERMITTING MORE TIME TO THOROUGHLY

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REVIEW PROPOSAL AND TO COORDINATE ANY PROGRAM PROPOSALS WITH THEIR COUNTERPART REPRESENTATIVES ON THE TOURISM COMMITTEE. U.S. ALONG WITH SWEDEN, DENMARK, BELGIUM AND GERMANY SUPPORTED LIMITING FUTURE STUDY TO AREA OF PACKAGE TOURS. FISCHBACH GAVE BRIEF ORAL REPORT ON STATUS OF FTC TOURISM INVESTIGATION, OFFERING TO SHARE RESULTS.

4. IN OTHER ACTION, THE CCP:

- DECIDED TO DISTRIBUTE ITS SEVEN WORK DAY ALLOTMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT INTO 4 DAYS TO WP5, 1 TO WP3, AND HOLD 2 IN RESERVE.
- HEARD A SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT ON THE ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE REGARDING THE DURABILITY OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS (CCP/77/74).
- ACCEPTED REPORT JOINTLY PREPARED BY CANADA AND THE U.S. ON THE IMPACT OF ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS ON CONSUMERS, AND DECIDED TO CONSIDER THE ISSUE IN DETAIL AT THE NEXT MEETING.
- HEARD A BRIEF REPORT FROM THE DELEGATE FROM THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON A SOON-TO-BE-PUBLISHED REPORT ON CONSUMER EDUCATION.

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- AGREED TO HOLD THE NEXT MEETING OF CCP ON JULY 3-4, 1978 FOLLOWED BY A MEETING OF WP5 ON JULY 5-6. THESE DATES WERE SELECTED TO COORDINATE WITH MEETINGS IN LONDON OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CONSUMER UNIONS, A PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER ORGANIZATION, ON JULY 9-14.
- KATZ

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